

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 22-36, and 38 are presently pending in the application. Claims 7, 10, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter in which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,219,358 ("Pinder"). Claims 2, 35, 36, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being patentable of Pinder in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,775,257 ("Watanabe"). Claims 15-19, 22, and 25-34 are allowed. Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 11-13, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7 and 10 were amended to correctly claim the subject matter, and claim 23 has been canceled. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejection should be removed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include allowable, but objected to dependent claim 4. It is believed that independent claim 1 is now allowable over the cited art. Additionally, claims 7 and 10 were amended to correctly claim the subject matter. It is believed therefore that dependent claims 2 and 5-14 further limit independent claim 1 as amended and should also be allowable. Claim 4 has been canceled.

Independent claim 35 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention. It is believed that independent claim 35 as amended is now allowable over the cited art. Claims 36 and 38 further limit independent claim 35 and should also be allowable.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the remarks.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 5-19, 22, 24-36, and 38 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with claims 1, 16, and 35 being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 5 independent claims. Because Applicant has previously paid for 38 total claims and 5 independent claims, it is believed that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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